As per the extant procedure, the Banking Ombudsman verifies the contents of the complaint with the concerned bank, evaluates the evidence produced by the parties and pass 'awards' of compensation, wherever considered appropriate, which covers actual pecuniary loss to the customer on account of excess charges penal interest, etc. and a compensation upto Rs. 1 lakh on account of harassment and mental anguish suffered by the customer. The New Delhi Banking Ombudsman disposed-off 2048 complaints during the year 2008-09 in accordance with the above procedure.

Inspection of mutual funds by SEBI

2637. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for inspections of Mutual Funds, which industry is having assets under management of around Rs. 4,89,000 crores, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) does not use its own staff;

(b) whether experience in Mutual Funds is one of the criteria of selection of such agencies in case SEBI is using outside agencies for inspections of Mutual Funds; and

(c) what is the surveillance mechanism used by SEBI for Mutual Fund industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Inspection of Mutual Funds is undertaken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) empanelled Statutory Central Auditors of Public Sector Banks/All India Financial institutions. Experience of the firm in financial sector auditing is one of the inputs in the decision making process for such selection

(c) The structure of mutual funds comprises Asset Management Company (AMC), the Trustee and the Sponsor. The trustee monitors the AMCs through periodic reporting by the AMCs. Regulations require trustees to have a meeting at least once every two calendar months and also empower them to obtain any information from AMCs. SEBI also monitors the activities of AMC both onsite and offsite. Further through periodic submissions such as bi-monthly Compliance Test Reports, Half yearly / Annual Accounts, copies of advertisements etc. by the AMC and half-yearly Trustee Reports by the trustees, SEBI monitors the activities of the AMC.

SHGs in Tamil Nadu

2638. SHRI ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) extended credit by public sector banks in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of women SHGs among them;

(c) the details of the credit extended during the period to SHGs in the State;

(d) whether any higher target has been fixed for the coverage of SHGs in the State for 2009-10; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The details of the number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) credit linked to the commercial banks,